The Antique Gift Shop

9

Lee Eun

When a mermaid princess's hopes to marry her human prince are squashed by the domineering, morbidly obese ex-ballerina to whom the prince appears to be tied, she decides to return to the Han River. But she's beaten to the punch by the prince . . . and then the ballerina! What grave secrets about these two does the murky water conceal . . . and will either of them make it out of the river alive?

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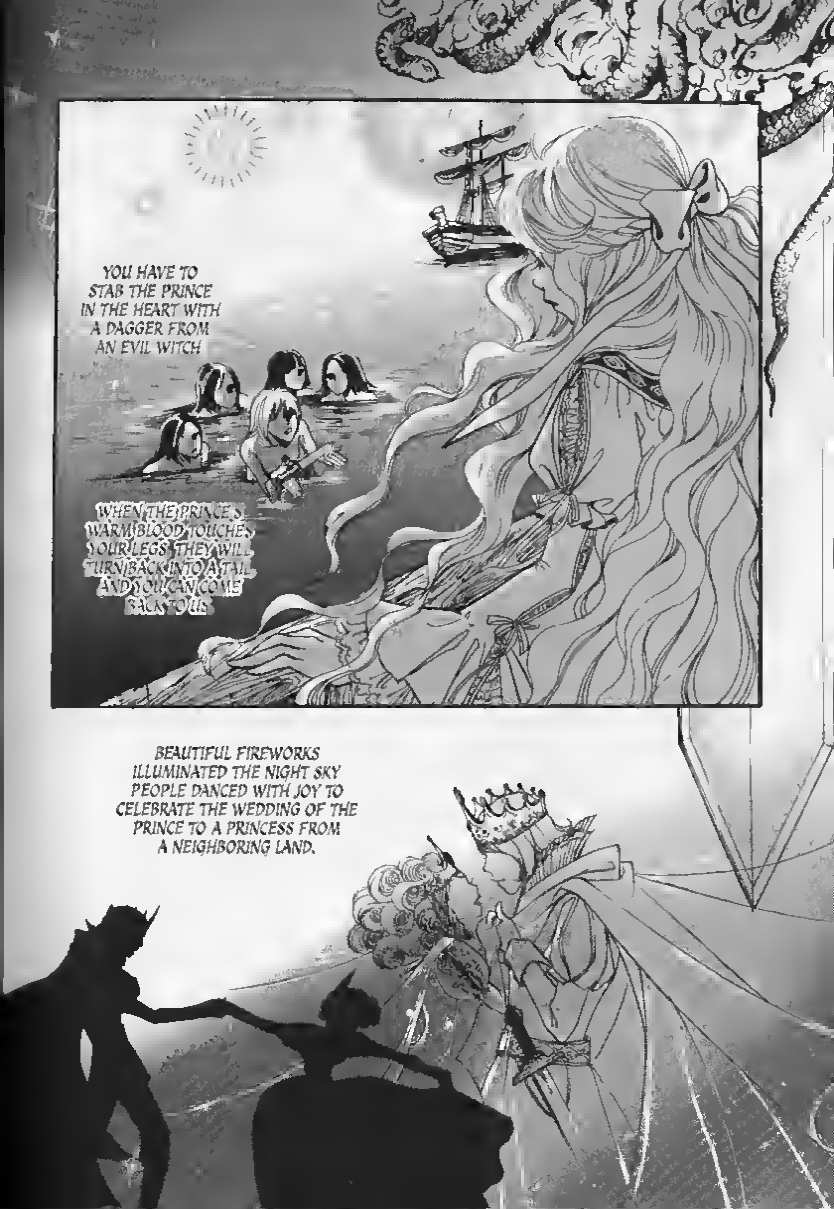

YOU HAVE TO STAB THE PRINCE IN THE HEART WITH A DAGGER FROM AN EVIL WITCH
WHEN THE PRINCE'S WARM BLOOD TOUCHES YOUR LEGS, THEY WILL TURN BACK INTO A TAIL AND YOU CAN COME BACK TO US
BEAUTIFUL FIREWORKS ILLUMINATED THE NIGHT SKY PEOPLE DANCED WITH JOY TO CELEBRATE THE WEDDING OF THE PRINCE TO A PRINCESS FROM A NEIGHBORING LAND.

SO? HOW DO I LOOK ~?
DON'T I LOOK JUST LIKE A PRINCESS?

YOU! HOW DARE YOU MAKE A DRESS OUT OF MY CURTAINS!?
CURTAIN
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY NEW CURTAINS, BUT A PRINCESS ONLY HAS ONE COMING-OUT PARTY.
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST DO THIS ONE LAST THING FOR ME?
RUBBER GLOVES
CURTAIN
SOON, I WILL RETURN TO THE HAN RIVER.
THE FAIRY TALE IS IN-CORRECT
THE MERMAID SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE BRIDE, NOT THE PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER LAND

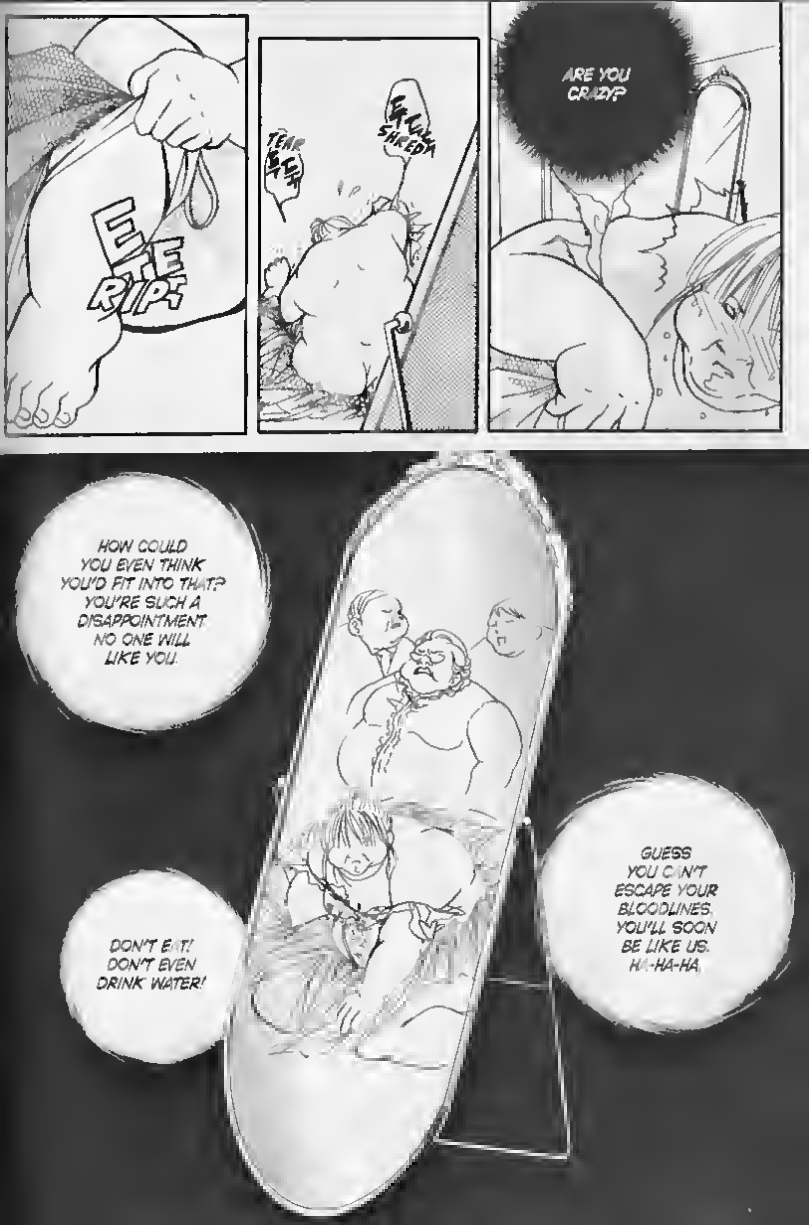
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DANCE THE BALLET AGAIN~!
AND THE PRINCE'S WISH WILL COME TRUE AS WELL...
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT~!
EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY IN THE END..

WE CAN EAT, DRINK, AND ENJOY THE MOMENT. WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
ARGH!
BWA-HA-HA-HA!
POW!
COME HERE, STINKY!
AIEEEE!

HEE HEE HEE
TINKLE
CHIME
!
TINKLE
CHIME

LEAP
EUH..
DROP

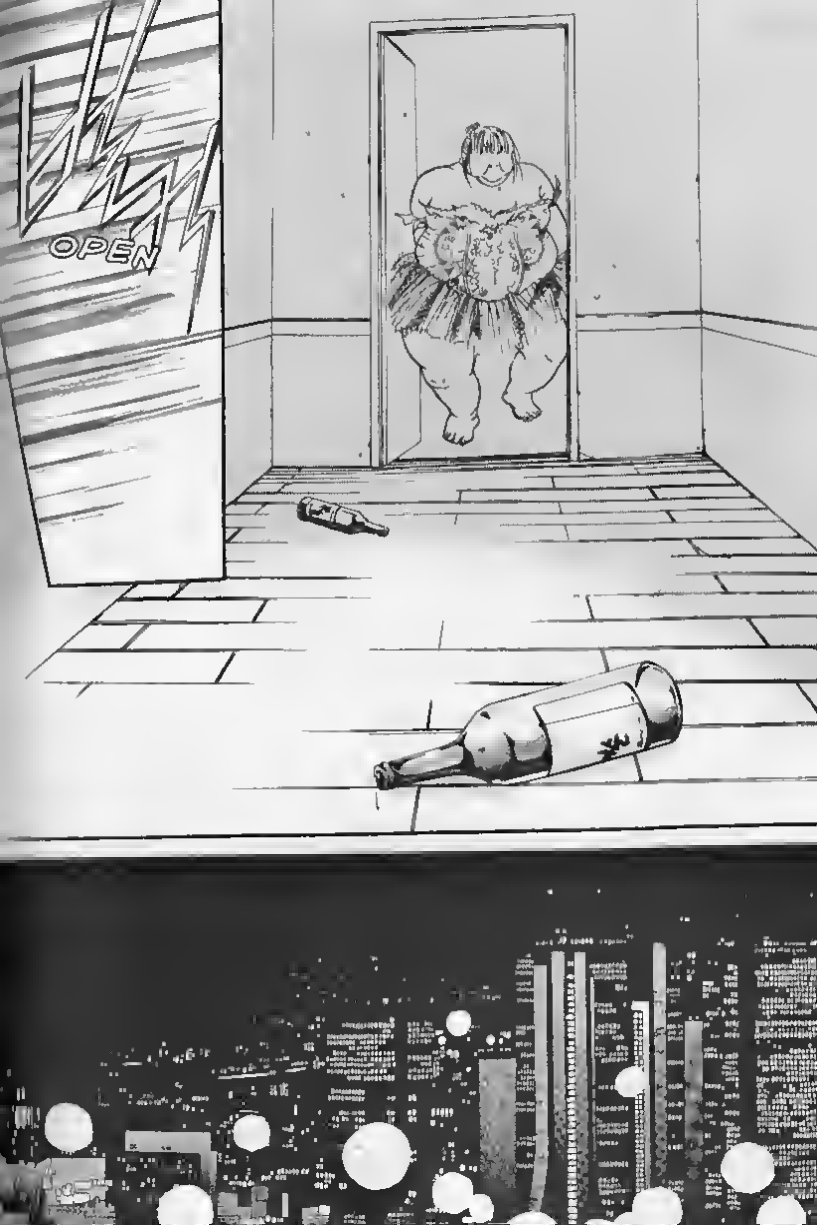
OH, MY PRINCESS YOU ARE SO LOVELY.
IF YOU WIN THIS CONTEST, YOU WILL BE THE BRIGHTEST JEWEL IN THE WHOLE WORLD YOUR MOTHER WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS
SIS! YOU'RE AMAZING PLEASE, MAKE MOM'S WISH COME TRUE


E-E
R!P!
TEAR
E-E-R
E-E-E-E-E
SHREDS
ARE YOU
CRAZY?
HOW COULD
YOU EVEN THINK
YOU'D FIT INTO THAT?
YOU'RE SUCH A
DISAPPOINTMENT
NO ONE WILL
LIKE YOU
DON'T EAT!
DON'T EVEN
DRINK WATER!
GUESS
YOU CAN'T
ESCAPE YOUR
BLOODLINES.
YOU'LL SOON
BE LIKE US.
HA-HA-HA.

YOU'RE PART OF THIS LITTLE PIGGY FAMILY!
YOU'RE FINISHED!
WOO-RYUNG
NOOO!
SHATTER!

CLICK
NO, DON'T LOOK AT ME
...PRIN-CESS...
YOU WERE MY PRINCESS THEN, AND YOU ARE STILL MY PRINCESS NOW.
EVERYONE MAY HAVE GIVEN UP ON YOU, BUT I WAS GLAD WHEN YOU CAME TO SEE ME
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU GET ANGRY WHEN YOU DON'T EAT I'LL BEAR THIS BURDEN IF IT MEANS YOU STAY HAPPY

I WILL FIND THEM FOR YOU. I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.
?!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO SEARCH THE ENTIRE HAN RIVER.
...I WILL FIND YOUR BALLET SLIPPERS, PRINCESS


OPEN

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FRIENDS? WHY DO YOU KEEP BOTHERING ME?
WAAA

WHATEVER I'M NOT HANGING OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE PLAY WITH THE WALL OR PLAY WITH GHOSTS; IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME
ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING ME? IF YOU LEAVE, THEY'LL...
WHSPR
WHSPR
WHSPR
...KEEP TALKING TO ME!

STOMP
SPLASH

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HEY!
STOMP
HOLD IT! HOLD IT RIGHT THEEERE!
STOMP
HEY! I'M TALKIN' TO YOU, PIGGY!

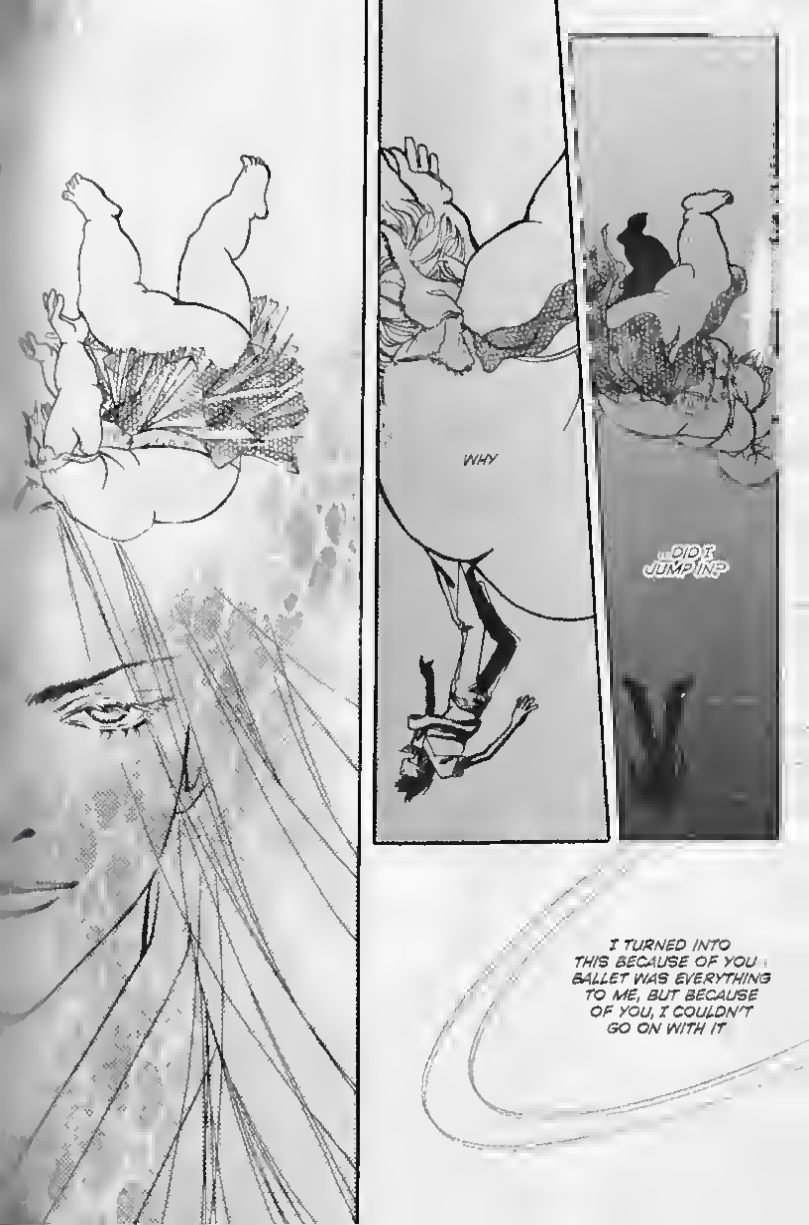
WAIT!!
TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF FIRST, OKAY? THAT'S THE WAY IT'S DO
THAT'S THE PROPER ETIQUETTE FOR COMMITTING SUICIDE. MIND YOUR MANNERS!

I HAVE TO COME BACK.
EH?
SHOES ARE EVIDENCE OF THE PAST. WHEN A PERSON KILLS HERSELF, SHE REMOVES HER SHOES TO FULFILL THE NEED TO LIQUIDATE AND LEAVE BEHIND ALL TRACES OF THE PAST.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS WEARING SHOES THAT DAY TOO

ONCE I FIND THEM, I WILL RETURN.

PRIIIIIIINCE!
TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF FIRST--!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

SPLASH
IT IS TIME TO RETURN THE SHOES
HEY~!!


WHY
DID I JUMP IN?
I TURNED INTO THIS BECAUSE OF YOU BALLET WAS EVERYTHING TO ME, BUT BECAUSE OF YOU, I COULDN'T GO ON WITH IT

SINK

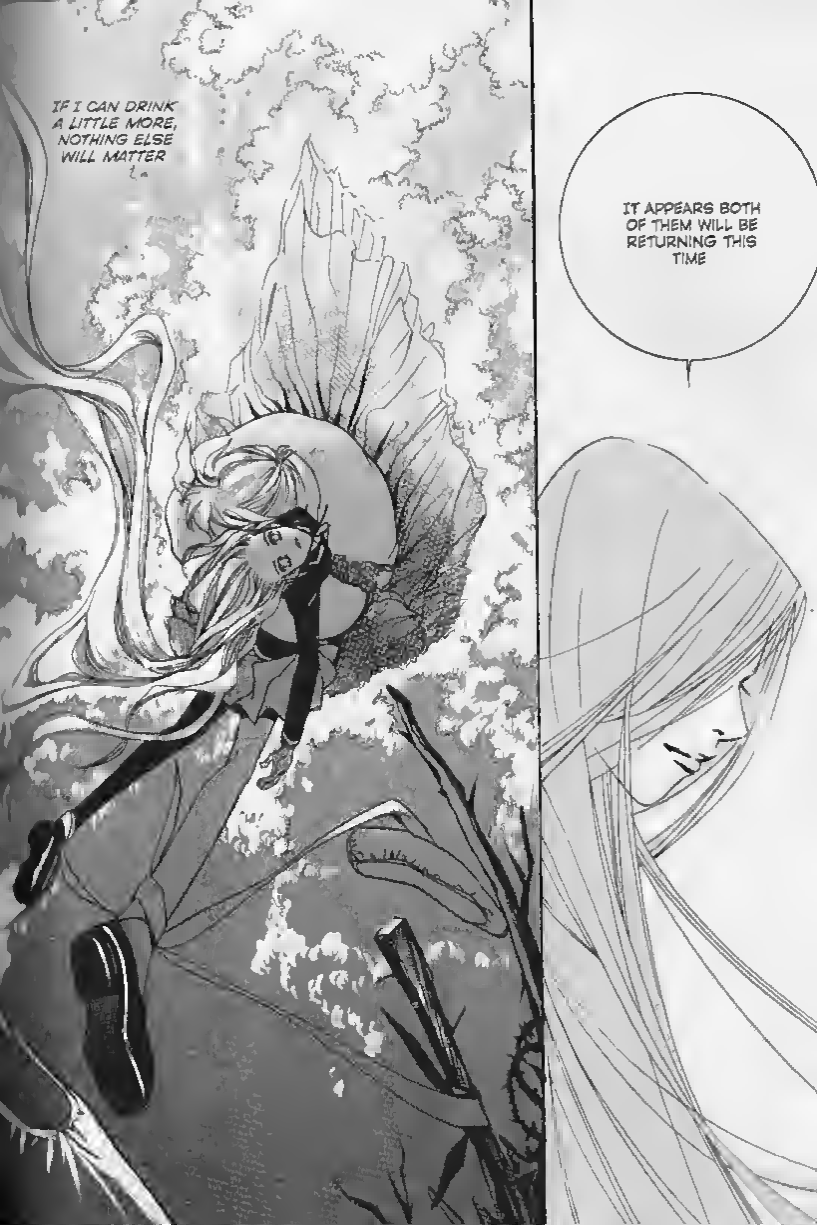
WRIGGLE
HELP
WRIGGLE
DIE
...GRY...
...HUNGRY...
HUNGRY.

HUNGRX
MY DREAM..
MY EVERYTHING

I'M SO SORRY. I'LL BUY YOU A NICE PAIR OF BALLET SLIPPERS
P
SPLASH
YOU'RE A BALLET GENIUS EVERYONE LIKES YOU, DON'T THEY?
TAKE THESE SLIPPERS AND MAKE THIS MOTHER'S WISHES COME TRUE
GOT THEM!!

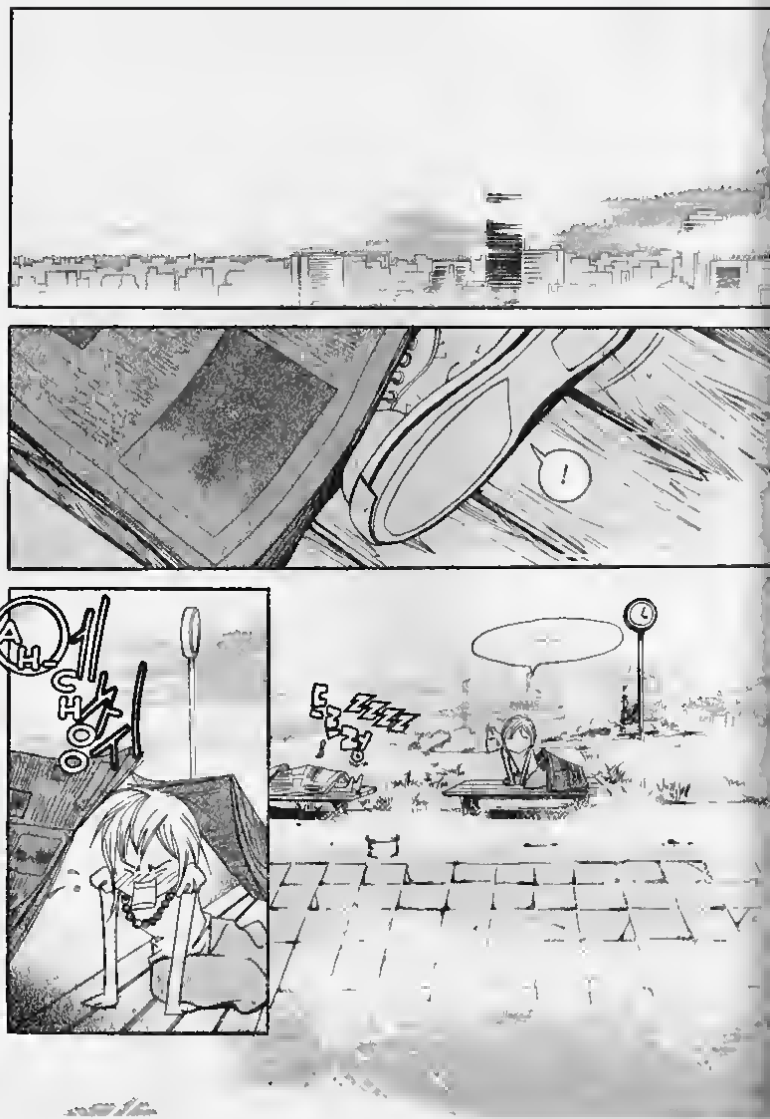
NOT NOW!

GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
...MY TUMMY...
GULP
...IS GETTING FULL...
GULP
NO, I DON'T WANNA GET OUT NOW! LET ME DRINK SOME MORE.
A LITTLE MORE...
PLEASE, JUST A LITTLE MORE


IF I CAN DRINK A LITTLE MORE, NOTHING ELSE WILL MATTER
IT APPEARS BOTH OF THEM WILL BE RETURNING THIS TIME

THE DESIRE TO EAT WAS HER MOST EMPHATIC CONNECTION TO LIFE.
SHE COULD HAVE ANYTHING SHE WANTED, BUT THE ONLY THING SHE WANTED AT THAT MOMENT WAS FOOD.
HER FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS AND HER FEAR OF GROWING FAT HAD CAUSED HER TO STARVE FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
SINCE EVEN HER SPIRIT DENIED HER LONGING FOR SUSTENANCE, HER ANGER ATE UP HER BODY INSTEAD

GRUMBLE


!
AHCHOO

AAGH~! I'M FREEZING.
TRIP
ACK!
OUCH...
?
UH...
UH...

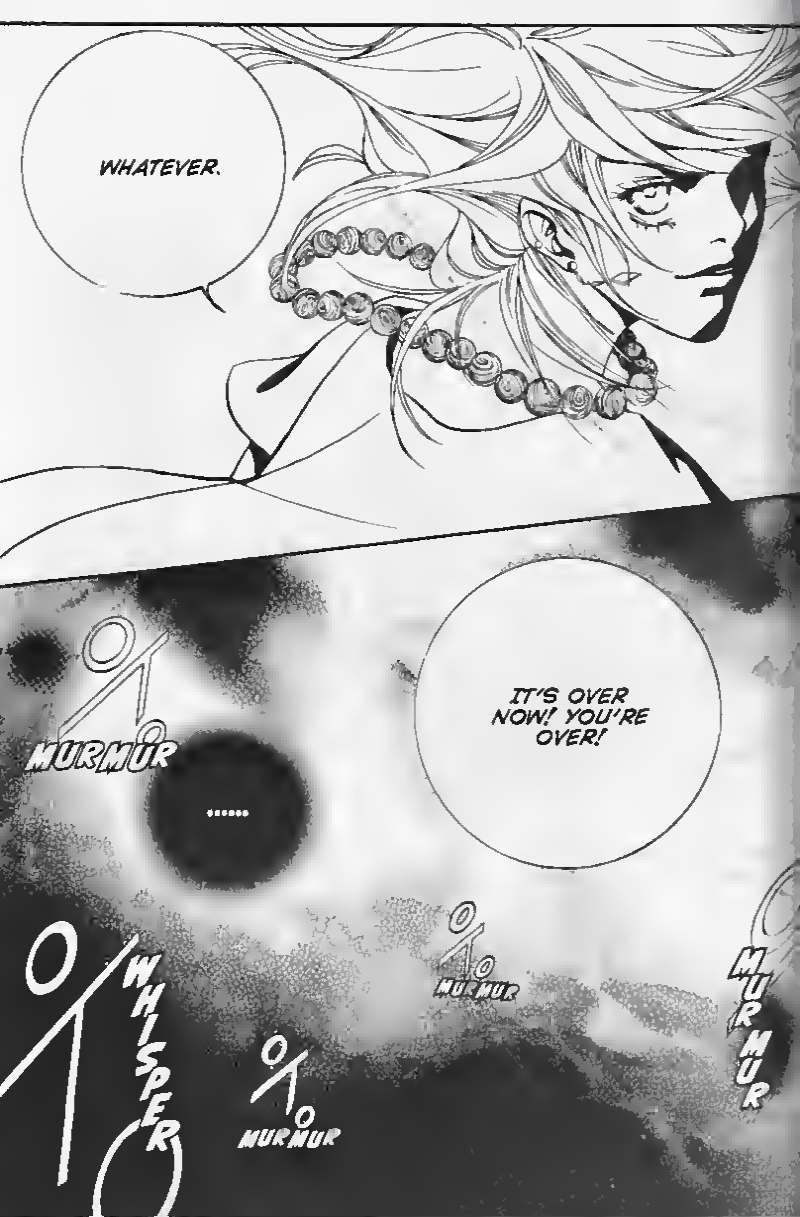
AAAAAAAAA!

SHUT

WHAT IS IT?
TOAD SAUNA
I WENT TO THE STORE, AND IT WAS SITTING OUT FRONT. WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THE SHOP?
WHO'S IT FROM?
?
?
DROP
DROP
LINK

SHHK
THUD!
CHHHHK

WHISPER
MURMUR
MURMUR


WHATEVER.
MURMUR
.....
IT'S OVER NOW! YOU'RE OVER!
WHISPER
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

I SAID, IT'S OVER!
TIK
BUN-NYUH
..WEAR THIS, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME

CRAP!
I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO THE STORE!
PUFF

DOES THIS GOLD NECKLACE BELONG TO YOU?
OR THIS SILVER NECKLACE?
YOU SHOULD'VE THROWN FOOD...
COUGH
STUPID SMOKE
COUGH
AH-HA! THIS WOODEN NECKLACE MUST BE YOURS, YES?
WHAT THE —— ? ARE YOU GUYS MAKING A MOVIE?

YOU HAVE TO SAY ONE OF THESE NECKLACES IS YOURS!
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN THE BOOK
IT'S A FISH
OH? IT'S YOU
DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
FIND WHAT?
TSK, TSK~! THEY KEEP TALKING TO YOU, BUT YOU'RE STILL PRETENDING YOU DON'T HEAR THEM?
WHO? WHO'S TALKING TO ME?
YOU KNOW WHO~! YOU'RE TALKING TO ME NOW, AND STILL YOU DON'T BELIEVE?
HOW FOOLISH!
THEY SAY

...THE DEAL HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED. FIND HIM. OR...
...YOU WILL DIE BECAUSE OF HIM.

DAMN MR YANG
JUST BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PAY HIM FOR A FEW MONTHS, HE THINKS HE CAN KILL ME? THAT'S NONSENSE! IF THIS WERE A MOVIE, NO ONE WOULD WANT TO SEE IT
SPLASH!
OH!

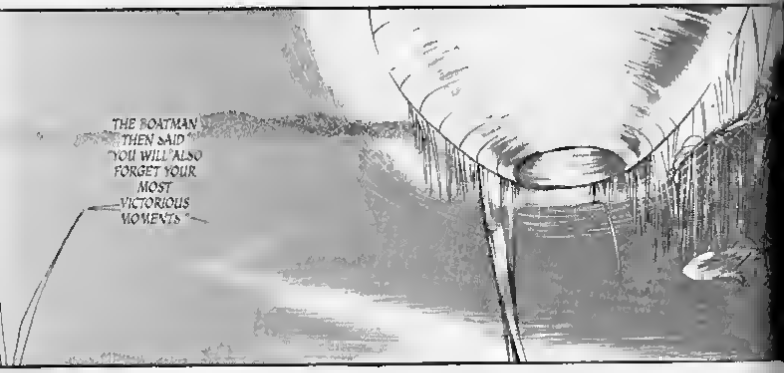
!
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD TAKE THESE NECKLACES--!
RRUMBLE
RRUMBLE

RRRUMBLE

CHAPTER 15
THE RIVER OF OBLIVION

"THERE WAS ONCE A GIRL WHO HAD TO CROSS THE RIVER OF OBLIVION AND GO TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD."
A KIND BOATMAN TOLD HER THAT IF SHE CHOSE TO DRINK THE WATER OF THE RIVER, IT WOULD MAKE HER FORGET HER ENTIRE LIFE.

I WOULD LIKE TO FORGET ALL THE HARSH THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME.



I ALSO WANT TO FORGET ALL MY FAILURES

I WOULD LIKE TO FORGET ALL THE HATE I FELT FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

THAT WILL BE EASY.
BECAUSE I ALREADY HAVE NO MEMORIES OF EVER BEING LOVED.
PLIP

WHAT DID I DO THAT WAS SO WRONG...?
WHY DID SHE ABANDON ME...?
WAS GRANDMA HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME RAISING ME?
태호

I STILL REMEMBER THE SMELL OF GLOOM AND THE WAY THE RAIN POURED INTO MY NOSTRILS.
I'LL ABANDON EVERYTHING, TOO!
I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING!

I'LL FORGET IT ALL
AHHHHH!

BUN-NYUH-CHO.
MY, MY~! YOU'VE TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, HAVEN'T YOU?

MY BRIDE...
BUN-NYUH CHO.
KRA-KA-KOW

HELP
MEEEEE!

YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER
YOU SHOULD TELL ME WHAT YOUR SYMPTOMS ARE

I'M JUST SICK. DON'T TOUCH ME
WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING TO EAT?
STOP BOTHERING ME AND GO DO YOUR JOB.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CALLS ME IN HERE EVERY FIVE MINUTES.
YEAH— AND SINCE WHEN DID YOU LISTEN TO ME SO OBEDIENTLY?

...WHAT'S YOUR NAME, MR. YANG?
WHAAAAT~EVER. GUESS THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT IF IT WASN'T FOR THE STORE, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.
ARE YOU NICE TO ME BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING FIRED?
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, MY PLAN WOULD FALL APART.
PLAN?
THERE'S NO FUTURE FOR A MAN OF YOUR AGE IN THIS STORE. I'M GOING TO SELL THE SHOP SOON. WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN I GO?
WELL, PERHAPS I WILL RETURN TO MY HOMETOWN.

I WANT TO EAT...
...WONTON SOUP
VERY WELL. CAN YOU STAY HERE BY YOURSELF FOR A WHILE?
YEAH...
DRIP

EH
SHHHHH
OF
OF

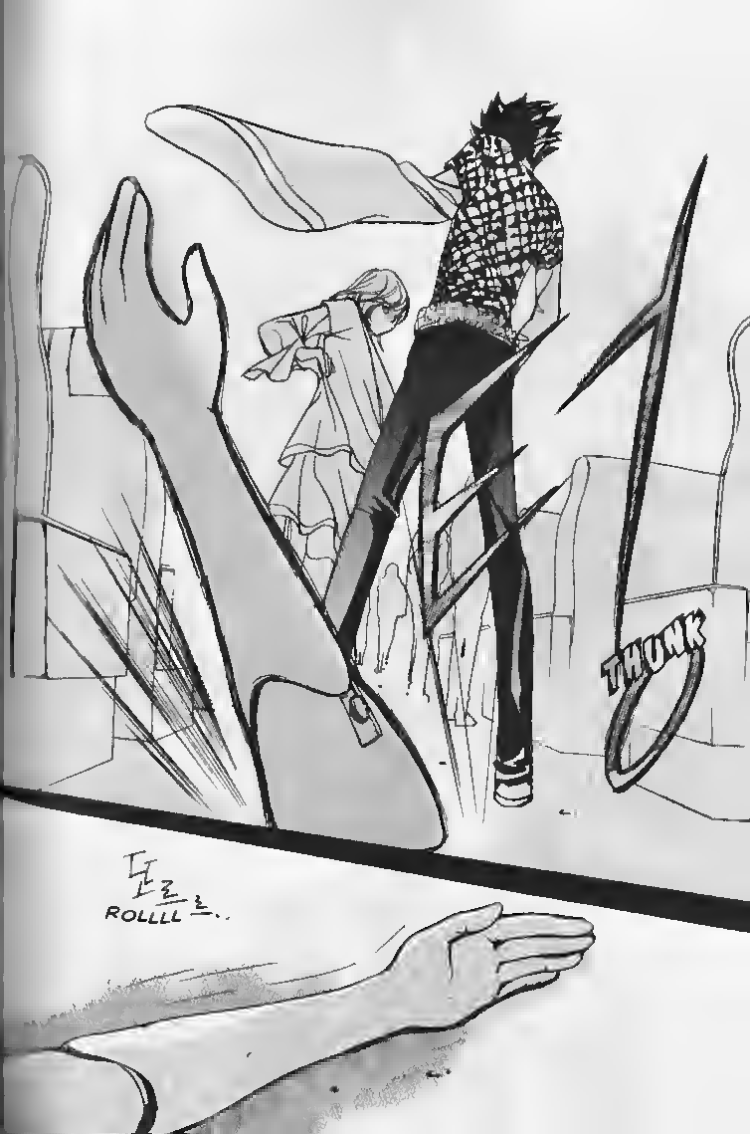
AHHH!
DID YOU SLEEP OKAY?
WHERE AM I?

WHERE AM I~?!
HOOOONK
WAAAAAH~!
YOU'RE SCARING MEEE~!
TH-THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN WHEN YOU'RE SCREAM-ING AT ME

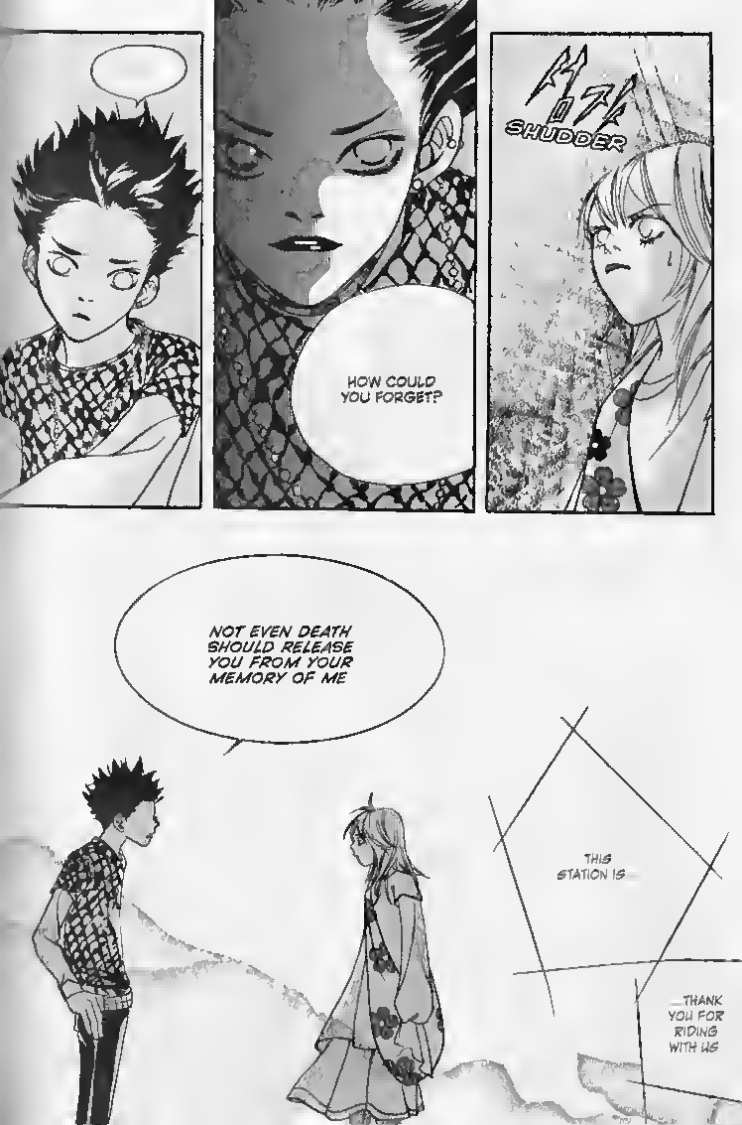
I'M GONNA TELL MY MOM ON YOU!
GAH...HOW MORTIFYING.
FLAIL
FLAIL
WHO IS THIS WEIRDO ANYWAY?
POKE
POKE
SNIFF
YOUR EARRINGS ARE PRETTY GIVE 'EM TO ME
HERE'S MY STUFF LET'S TRADE
?

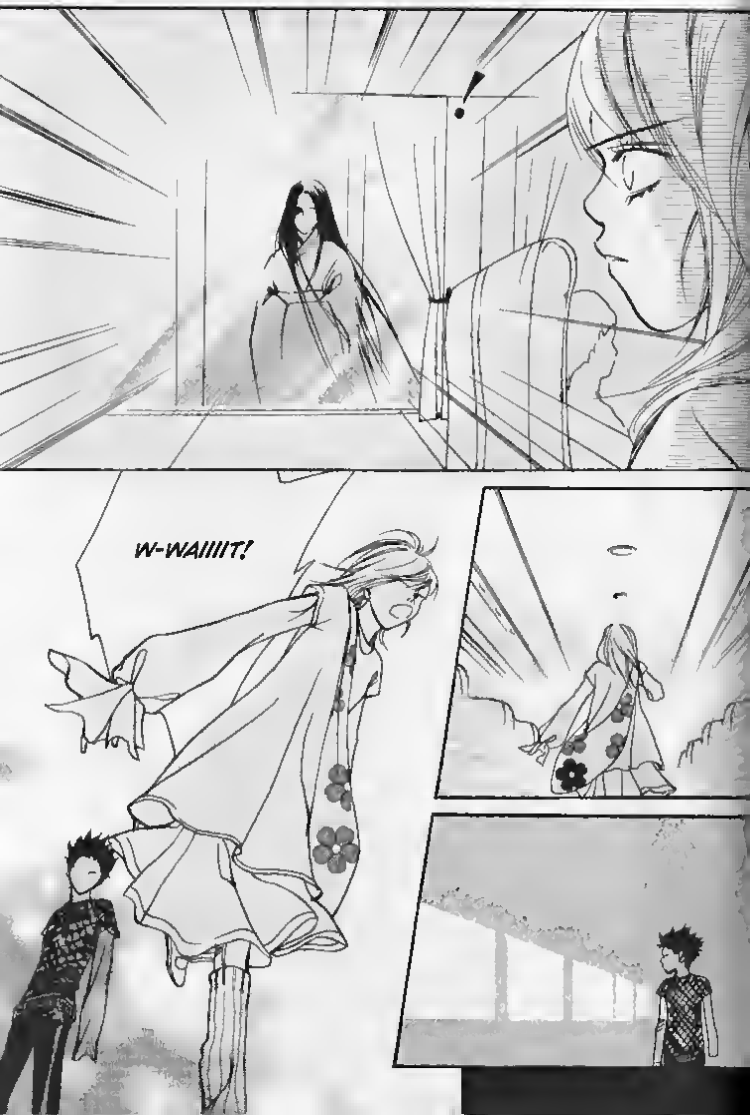
PICK WHICHEVER ONE YOU LIKE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'VE COLLECTED MORE THAN YOU, HAVEN'T I?
WHAT IS THIS GARBAGE ...?
BANG!
헤헤헤
HEH HEH HEH
SPLURT
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
ARE YOU... GOING TO HIT ME AGAIN?
DON'T CRY! DON'T CRY! IF YOU EMBARRASS ME AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU
SNIFF
SNIFF

THE NEXT STATION IS DAEGU. STOPPING AT DAEGU...
LOOK AT THIS. I'VE GOT A SCAR HERE 'COS YOU HIT ME IN THE HEAD WITH A STONE.
DAEGU~? I'M LOSING MY MIND.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
SORRY, BUT I...
NOOO~! NOOO~! I NEVER WANT TO BE APART FROM YOOOU~! LET'S GO TO MY HOUUUSE ~!
DON'T! DON'T!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
SNAP


THUNK
ROLLLL..

OHHH~! I GET IT WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT BEFORE?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, I'M TOTALLY USED TO IT NOW. MY MOM STILL SAYS IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT AND CRIES A LOT, THOUGH
IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS ARM THAT I REMEMBER YOU
I
DID THAT TO YOU?
...ARE YOU...
...LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT TIME?


HOW COULD YOU FORGET?
SHUDDER
NOT EVEN DEATH SHOULD RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR MEMORY OF ME
THIS STATION IS...
...THANK YOU FOR RIDING WITH US

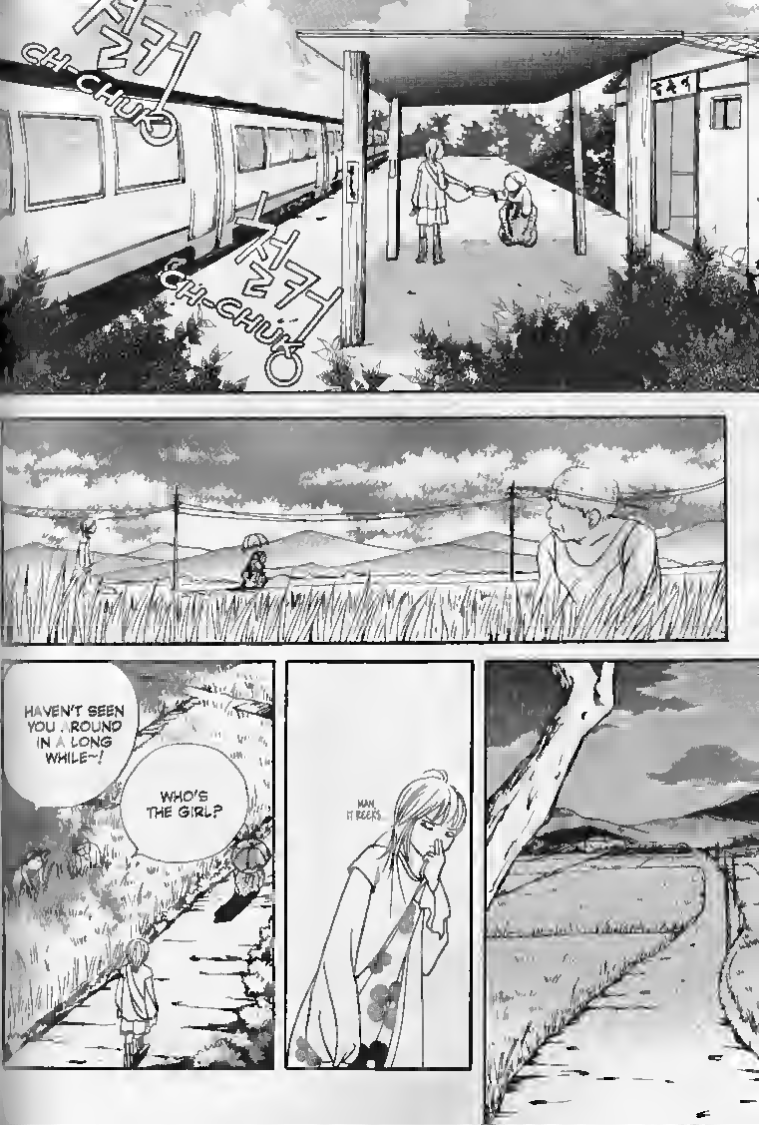

!
W-WAIIIIT!

I SAW HIM
HE WAS STANDING
RIGHT HERE
HUFF
HUFF
IT WAS
HIM!
CASH
CASH
STATION

LET'S GO!
UJIM EMEN STATION
을지로
HOONKO

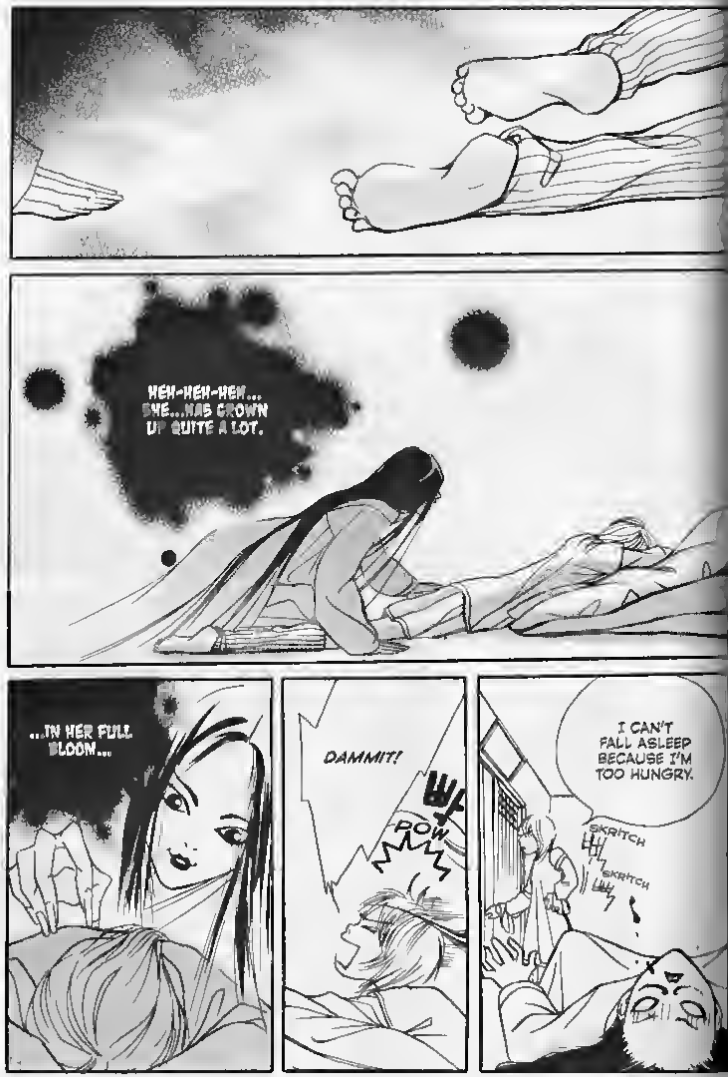
음촌역
EUM CHON STATION
음촌역
음촌역
WHY

WHY THE HELL AM I HERE?!
GRAB
LET GO OF MEEE! I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
YOUR GUEST IS WAITING.
YOU MUSTN'T MAKE HIM WAIT ANY LONGER.


CH-CHUG
CH-CHUG
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND IN A LONG WHILE~!
WHO'S THE GIRL?
MAN, IT REEKS.

DOES SHE REALLY EXPECT ME TO EAT THIS NASTY CRAP ?
I'M LEAVING IN THE MORNING
WHERE'S THIS GUEST? SHE'S SUCH A LIAR
I CLOSED THE STORE I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL AND STUDYING ABROAD NEXT YEAR
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU'LL EVER SEE ME.

SIGH—
THAT GUY...
I DIDN'T EVEN GET HIS NAME HE MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN?
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T REMEMBER DOING THAT TO HIM
"WAY TO GO" ...NOWHERE TO GO, HUH
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY EITHER


HEH-HEH-HEH... SHE...HAS GROWN UP QUITE A LOT.
...IN HER FULL BLOOM...
DAMMIT!
POW
I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP BECAUSE I'M TOO HUNGRY.
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

I HAVEN'T HAD ANY REAL FOOD ALL DAY
GRUMBLE
IT'S EARLY IN THE EVENING, BUT THIS VILLAGE IS ALREADY DEAD~!
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE A CONVENIENCE STORE
WHERE THE HECK IS EVERYBODY?!
SHOOM
EXCUSE ME!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND A CONVENIENCE STORE AROUND HERE?

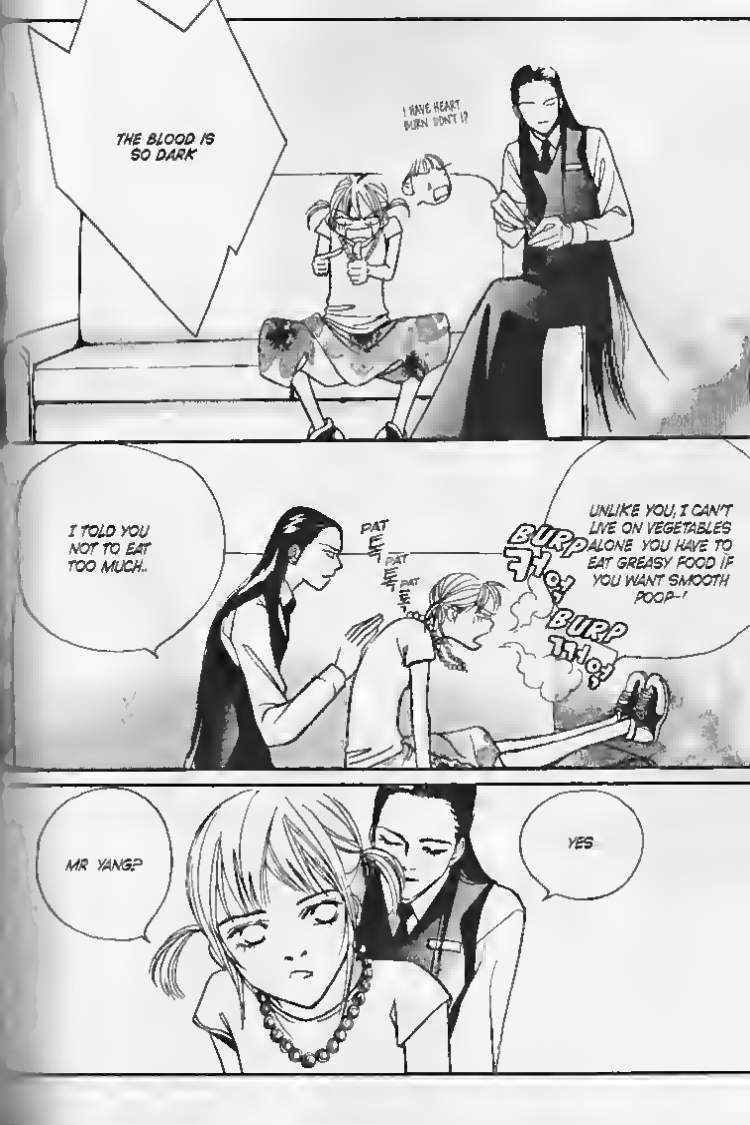
A FLOWER IN HER HAIR.
.....
YOU WANT TO GIVE ME SOME BREAST MILK?
I WANT MILK-! I WANT MILK-!
Ooooooo
MIIILK-! MIIILK! MIIILK!
DON'T FOLLOW MEEE-! I DON'T HAVE ANY!

SHE IS TOTALLY...
CRAZY
HUFF
HUFF
!

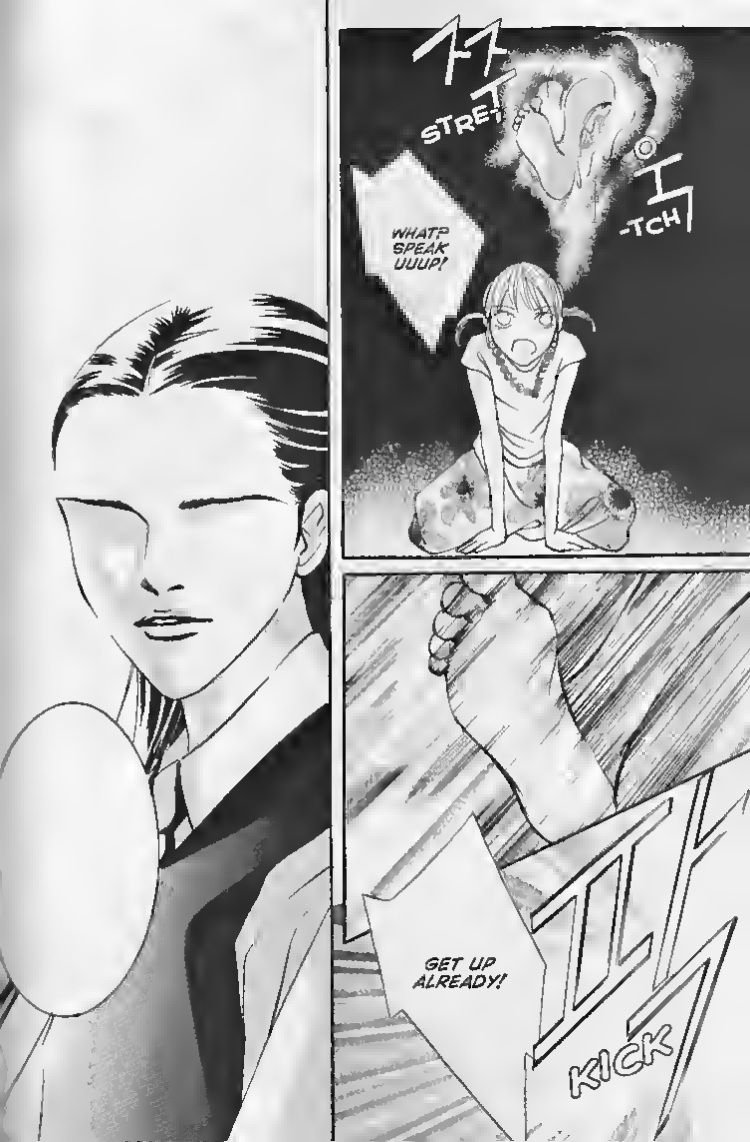
HELLOOO! ANYBODY HOME?
SNIFF!
SMELLS YUMMY
SNIFF!
EXCU—
CREAAAK

먹을 것!
FOOD!!
SHOVEL
GULP
THIS MUST'VE BEEN A YOUNG CHICKEN IT'S SO TENDER AND JUICY
WOW, MY FAVORITE! MUNG BEAN PANCAKES!
BURP
AHH - I'M SO HAPPY

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HAD A GOOD MEAL.
HAPPY...
ZZZ...
.....
MR YAAANG! M-MY TUMMY'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE
POKE
OWWW!


THE BLOOD IS SO DARK
I HAVE HEART BURN. DON'T I?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT TOO MUCH..
PAT
PAT
PAT
UNLIKE YOU, I CAN'T LIVE ON VEGETABLES ALONE YOU HAVE TO EAT GREASY FOOD IF YOU WANT SMOOTH POOP~!
BURP
BURP
MR YANG?
YES

HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT A PART OF YOUR MEMORY HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU?
IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL SHORT-TERM MEMORY LOSS?
HUMANS FORGET THINGS EASILY YOU CANNOT REMEMBER EVERY SINGLE GOOD MEMORY.
GOOD MEMORY? GOOD MEMORY...
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH MY EMPLOYEE
BURP
HOI
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
—
——
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.


STRE
-TCH
WHAT? SPEAK UUUP!
GET UP ALREADY!
KICK

YOU LITTLE PIG!
THE SUN CAME UP A LIFETIME AGO! HOW COULD YOU SLEEP IN ON THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR MARRIED LIFE?!

YOU WITCH! GET UP AND COOK MY BREAKFAST!
UHH, UHH...
AH
GOOD MORNING, MY BRIDE.

AHH~! I'M STILL TIRED LET'S SLEEP SOME MORE~! ALL RIGHT?
YAWN
WHY ARE YOU STILL SITTING THERE? BRING YOUR HUSBAND WATER SO HE CAN WASH UP~!
ARRRRRRGH!
SHHHHHH
SHHHHHH

YOU LOW-LIFE! ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY AGAIN?!
MY SON IS AN ONLY CHILD, AND YOU TOOK AWAY HIS ARM! HOW DARE YOU EVEN THINK OF RUNNING OFF?!
MY FAMILY WAS RUINED BECAUSE OF YOU, WITCH!
THIS IS A DREAM... A BAD DREAM ON A RAINY DAY...
BUN-NYUH DON'T GO
THIS IS JUST A DREAM!

KRRRA-
-KOOM
WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING SO LOUDLY?!
SMACK!
LET'S COOK BREAKFAST FIRST, HONEY
TSK, TSK, TSK...
DRAG
THIS IS A DREAM A DREAM

LET'S MAKE RADISH SOUP MY FATHER REALLY LIKES THAT
LET'S GO GET SOME FROGS AFTER BREAKFAST YOU LIKE CATCHING FROGS ON A RAINY DAY
KOFF KOFF
DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT I DID THAT TO YOUR ARM? TELL ME WHEN, WHY, AND HOW I DID IT.
I TOLD YOU I HAVE NO GRUDGE AGAINST YOU. IF MY ARM WASN'T LIKE THIS, WE'D ALREADY HAVE GONE OUR SEPARATE WAYS
LET'S LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER AND LET'S HAVE LOTS OF BABIES TOO
ARE YOU NUTS? WHY WOULD I WANT TO HAVE BABIES WITH YOU?
IT'LL BE FUN TO PLAY WITH BABIES

L-LET GO OF ME, YOU JERK
ARGH
NO
EVEN THOUGH I ONLY HAVE ONE ARM, I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO

IF YOU RUN AWAY FROM ME AGAIN, I WON'T JUST STAND BY THIS TIME.
IF YOU DO...
CHILLS!
LAST NIGHT

I TOLD YOU A MAN SHOULDN'T DO ANY HOUSEHOLD CHORES. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR PEE-PEE. COME HERE RIGHT NOW~!
TEE-HEE!
RIGHT, RIGHT. I'LL LOSE MY PEE-PEE.
YOU MORON DO YOU LIKE YOUR WIFE THAT MUCH~?!
HONEY RICE IS IN THE POT
IF YOU DO.
WHY THAT BASTARD...
..I'LL TELL EVERYONE THAT I FELT YOU UP LAST NIGHT

I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE
SHHHHH
I CAN DO THIS
GRANDMA'S HOUSE ISN'T FAR FROM HERE
I JUST HAVE TO RUN
I CAN
BOOM

EL
PLUNK
I APOLOGIZE FOR COMING INTO YOUR HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION... AND FOR EATING YOUR FOOD AND FALLING ASLEEP
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR SON'S ARM, BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME... MOREOVER, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MARRYING HIM
WHEN THE RAIN STOPS, I'LL GO BACK HOME AND REIMBURSE YOU FOR WHAT I ATE
IT HAS BEEN RAINING CONSTANTLY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE VILLAGE BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD
SO WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE STILL HERE...?

IT'S BECAUSE THE ROAD TO THE VILLAGE IS BLOCKED THERE WAS A LANDSLIDE
KRA-CHANG
HOW DARE YOU!
NO ONE CAN ENTER OR LEAVE THIS HOUSE
YOU TREATED MY SON LIKE YOUR SERVANT AND HAD NO RESPECT FOR YOUR ELDERS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG YOU'RE STILL THE SAME, WITCH.
I ONLY ACCEPTED YOU BECAUSE MY SON SAID YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE FOR HIM! YOU'RE A WITCH, THROUGH AND THROUGH!
STOP CALLING ME A WITCH! I DON'T KNOW HIM IF YOU KEEP SLANDERING ME, I'LL SUE YOU

YOU STOLE MY SON'S PURITY LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?!
순결한… 순결
PURE PURE
YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF ME RIGHT?
PURE
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED!!

OWAAAAY TOLOO
LET GO OF ME. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
COME HERE!
SHOVE
AIEEEE !!
CLEAN THE TOILET, TAKE OUT ALL THE POOP, AND FERTILIZE OUR FIELDS WITH IT ALSO, WEED THE ENTIRE BACKYARD
WHEN YOU'RE DONE CLEANING THE KITCHEN AND OUR BEDROOMS, YOU'LL MAKE OUR DINNER AND I WANT MEAT!
IF YOU FORGET ANY OF THE THINGS I'VE LISTED OFF, I'LL H NG YOU IN THE TREE ALL NIGHT AND LEAVE YOU OUT IN THE R IN

ゴロゴロ…。

KRRRRR
NO, NO, NO.
DON'T COME——!
DON'T COME——!
UGH!

GO AWAY!!
AHHHHH!

I'M NOT LEAVING
I'LL DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU. I'LL TAKE OUT THE POOP, CATCH FROGS, AND CARRY YOU ON MY BACK EVERY SINGLE DAY~!
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU LIKE WE USED TO
YOU'RE MY BRIDE I WON'T BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.

WAAA-
I WON'T LEAVE YOU-!
-AAH-!
IF HE STAYS WITH ME WHEN I'M LIKE THIS
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS
WAAH-!
WAAH-!
THANK YOU.

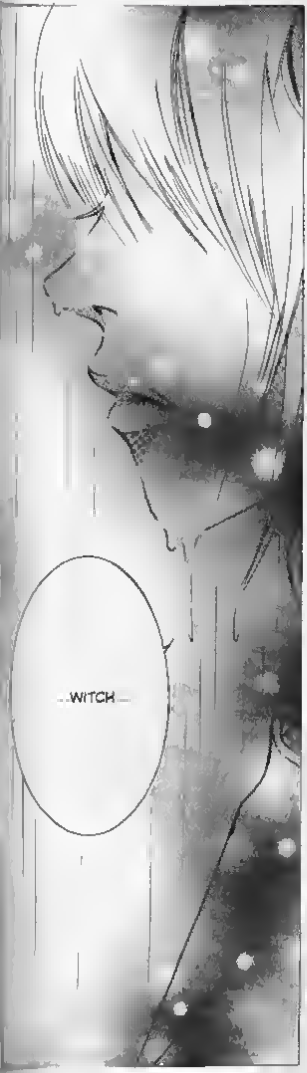
SLOSH
SLOSH
HNNGH
DON'T WORRY I'LL DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU
BEEHIVE
STINKY
I CAN DO——!
SHHK
HEY! YOU'RE SPLASHING IT EVERY-WHERE.
SHHK
SHAKE
SHAKE

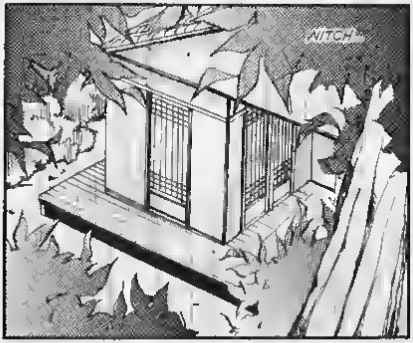
GIVE IT TO ME!
I CAN—
IT'S OKAY. IT'S HARD TO DO WITH ONLY ONE ARM
WHY DOES HE WANT ME TO TAKE THE POOP OUT ON A RAINY DAY?
I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS NIGHTMARE AT LEAST UNTIL THE RAIN STOPS. IF I GET KICKED OUT NOW, I'M DEAD
SWOOSH

GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
A FROG!
HEEEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
PAK
PAK
!

I CAN'T I HAVE TO FEAST-FEED MY BABY
MY BABY IS WAITING FOR ME THERE I HAVE TO FEED HIM
MA'AM!
YOU CAN FIND EVERYTHING THERE
...MOM...
THAT'S MY MOM
SHE LOST HER MIND WHEN I BECAME LIKE THIS SHE GETS WORSE ON RAINY DAYS AND RUNS AROUND THE VILLAGE LIKE THAT

MY DREAM WAS TO BECOME A ROCK STAR. I WANTED TO SING AND PLAY GUITAR.
I WISH THERE WAS A GUITAR I COULD PLAY WITH ONLY ONE ARM
MY MOM LOVES TO HEAR ME SING...
MY FAMILY WAS RUINED BECAUSE OF YOU, WITCH!
BECAUSE OF ME
SCHOOL BELL-IS-RINGING
SHOULD I SING FOR MY BRIDE?
BECAUSE OF ME OUR DREAMS AND YOUR FAMILY WERE SHATTERED. HOW CAN YOU STILL LIKE ME?


WITCH


WITCH

ZZZ...
WITCH

MMM~! THIS MEAT IS TASTY~! WHERE DID YOU GET IT~?
MY POOR FROG
SHUHUH

WOW~! YOU LOOK LIKE AN ANGEL~!
YOU FINALLY LOOK LIKE A NEW BRIDE.

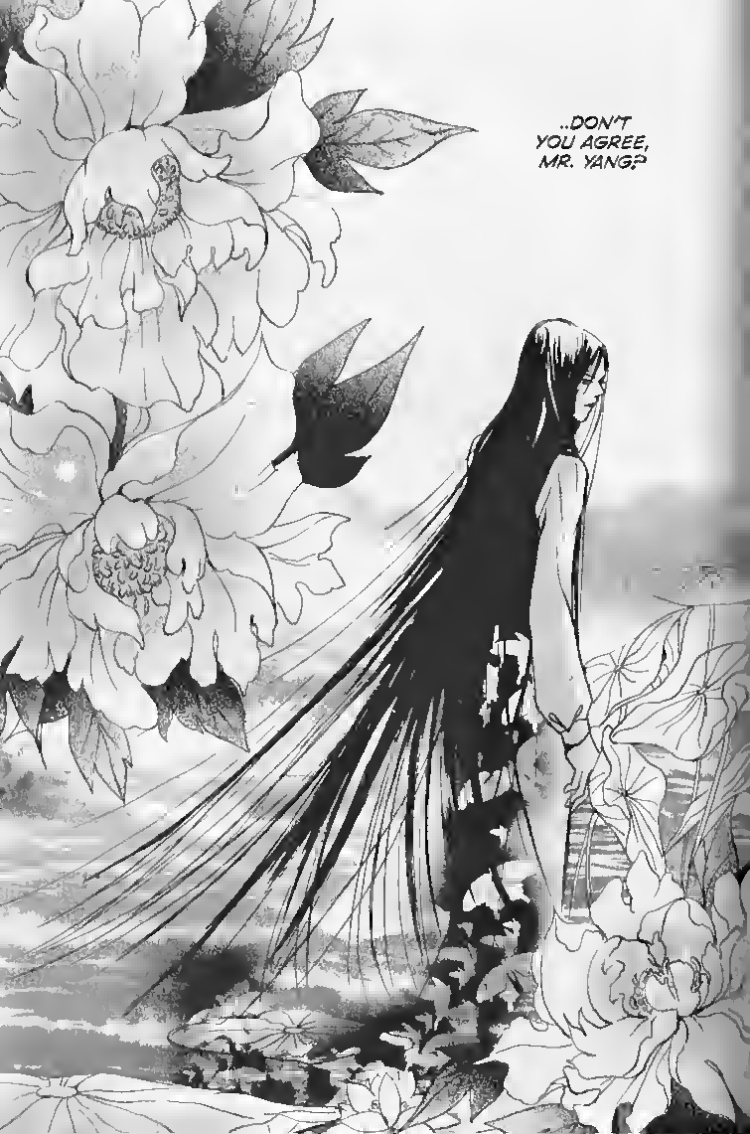
...WITCH...

PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHOOOSH
A BOILER WOULD MAKE THIS SO MUCH EASIER
PANT
PANT
BOY — I FEEL DIZZY

I REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN WE PLAYED THE HOSPITAL GAME. YOU HIT MY HEAD WITH A STONE BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT A PATIENT HAD TO BLEED.
AND YOUR GRANDMA SPANKED YOU SO MUCH, YOU HIT ME JUST AS MUCH AFTER
GRANDMA SPANKED ME COS OF YOU YOU DUMMY
YOU PLAYED WITH ME ALL DAY WHENEVER I GAVE YOU TWO CANDIES...
BUN-NYUH, LOOK AT THIS~! MY UNCLE FROM SEOUL SENT IT TO ME
I WANT THAT
NO WAY~! THIS WAS MADE IN THE U.S.

IF YOU GIVE IT TO ME, I'LL MARRY YOU.
IT'S LIKE I'D PLAY WITH YOU UNTIL WE WERE A HUNDRED YEARS OLD EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME CANDY
MARRY ME? WHAT'S THAT?
REALLY?
BUT YOU LOST THAT PENCIL NOT LONG AFTER
TSK
YOU MEMORIZED THE MULTIPLICATION TABLES BETTER THAN ANYONE AND CAUGHT THE MOST FROGS YOU WERE PRETTY, KIND AND SMART
SMILE
LIAR

I WAS A WITCH WHEN I WAS YOUNG TOO...
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER YOU, STUPID. HOW CAN YOU STILL THINK I'M PRETTY?
MY MOM SAID YOU LOOKED LIKE A SEAL AFTER SHE SAW YOU SWIMMING ON A RAINY DAY. SHE TOLD ME THAT YOU'D BE FAMOUS WHEN YOU GREW UP
SHE ALSO SAID SHE WAS HAPPY WHENEVER SHE SAW YOU
HE'S LYING


..DON'T
YOU AGREE,
MR. YANG?

WHAT DOES YOUR YOUNG FRIEND WANT?
TO MARRY ME!
HE MUST BE PRETTY DARING THEN.

WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO?
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE IT'S RAINING
I TRIED SO HARD TO RUN AWAY FROM THE STORE FROM MY GRANDMA
THE RAIN SOUNDED LIKE ANGRY DOGS BARKING, AND THE RAINDROPS STUNG MY SKIN, LIKE I WAS BEING WHIPPED
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ABANDONED IN THIS STORM. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE TO RUN AWAY LIKE I'M GUILTY OF SOMETHING, BUT I KEEP TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM EVERYTHING ANYWAY.

I FEEL AT EASE IN THAT HOUSE, LIKE A PRISONER WHO BROKE OUT OF JAIL AND FOUND A RAY OF HOPE
THE ONLY THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS...
YOU WHERE ARE YOU?

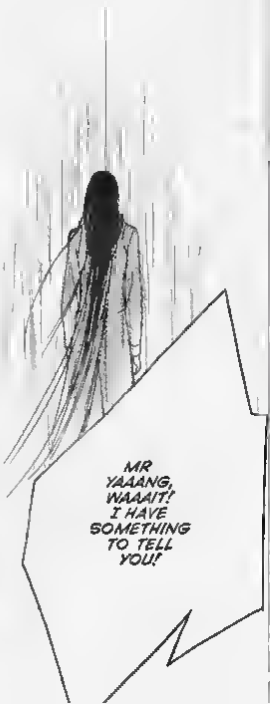
THAT'S STRANGE, WHY ISN'T IT RAINING HERE?
THE RAIN ISN'T A DOG. IT DOESN'T COME WHEN YOU CALL IT, YOU KNOW
BECAUSE NEITHER OF US ASKED THE RAIN TO COME
RAIN IS A VERY TRICKY THING
RAIN MAKES PEOPLE REMEMBER THE PAST, BUT THE MEMORIES ARE EXAGGERATED AND DISTORTED
RAIN CAUSES PEOPLE'S MINDS TO WAVER TO YOU, RAIN IS

IF YOU'RE GONNA SAY THAT BEING ABANDONED IN THE RAIN WILL TURN INTO A GOOD MEMORY...
...THEN I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT.
TO ME, RAIN WAS LIKE THE MURDER WEAPON THAT KILLED ME. I WANT TO FORGET EVERYTHING. I WILL FORGET
YES... JUST LIKE YOU FORGOT ABOUT YOUR YOUNG FRIEND, YOU WILL FORGET ABOUT US SOMEDAY
I WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU!
NOT YOU.
YOU WERE TOO GOOD OF AN EMPLOYEE
THANK YOU.

...AND YOUR FEARS, EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO FORGET IN ORDER TO KEEP LIVING, THEY ARE ALL CONNECTED.
BUT MEMORIES ARE LIKE CHAINS. YOU CANNOT CHOOSE WHICH ONES TO KEEP AND WHICH ONES TO FORGET. YOUR EMPLOYEE, THE STORE, THE ANTIQUES, YOUR GRANDMOTHER...
FEAR WILL COMPEL YOU TO DRINK FROM THE RIVER OF OBLIVION.
GURRR...

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

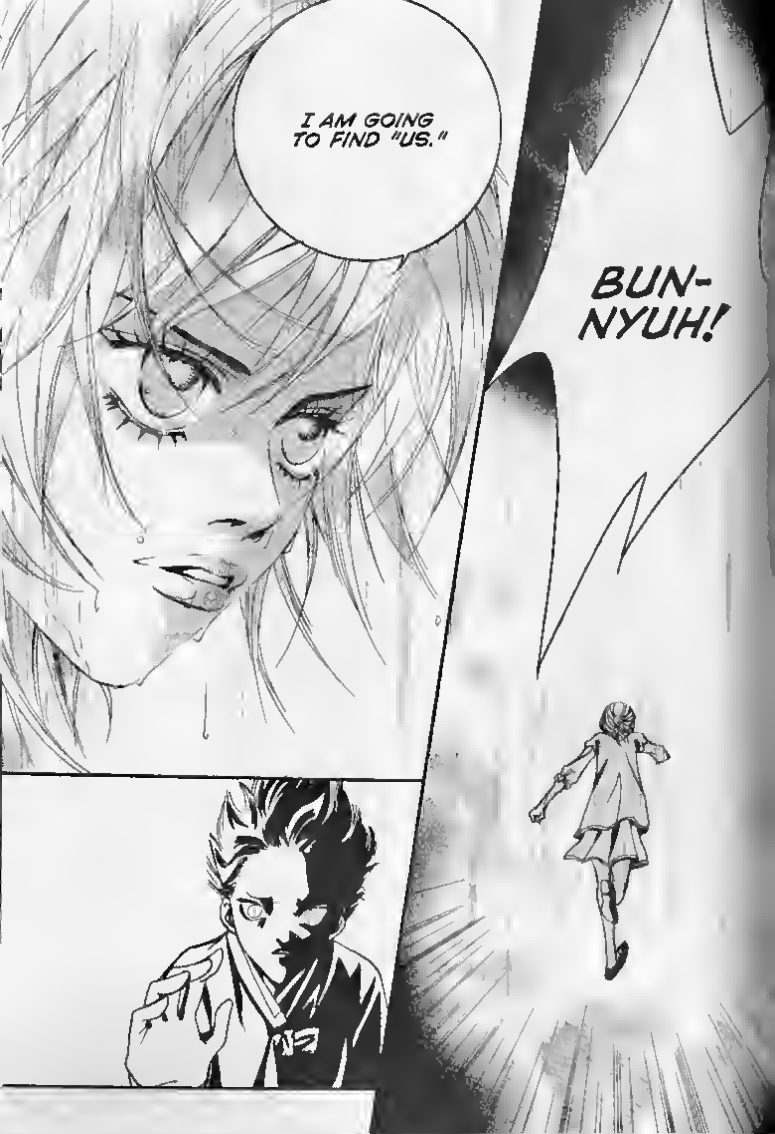

MR YAAANG, WAAAIT! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

MR YANG!
HONEY, I HAD A DREAM THAT YOU LEFT ME
WAAAAH!?
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

WHY'S MY DRESS WET?
WAAAAAH!
OH NO, HONEY~! IF DAD FINDS OUT I WET THE BED, HE'LL BE MAD~!
WAHH
WAHH
DIZZY
CAN YOU TELL HIM YOU DID IT? WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, I TOLD YOUR GRANDMA I WAS THE ONE WHO WET THE BED FOR YOU.
I PRETENDED THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO SET FIRE TO OUR KITCHEN AND KILLED THE CHICKEN FOR YOU~!
I'LL NEVER INSIST ON BEING THE TEACHER WHEN WE PLAY THE SCHOOL GAME. YOU USED TO TELL ME THAT IT WASN'T FUN TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK BECAUSE I KEPT HIDING IN THE SAME PLACE, BUT I CAN HIDE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE NOW

I DON'T KNOW YOU
EUN-NYUH, WHERE ARE YOU GOOO-ING?
IT'S RAINING.
SHHHHHHP
Ok—

IT'S RAINING SO HARD, YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE PROPERLY.
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN
LET'S GO BACK IT'S RAINING TOO HARD


I AM GOING TO FIND "US."
BUN-NYUH!

SOMETHING IS GOING WRONG I FEEL UNEASY

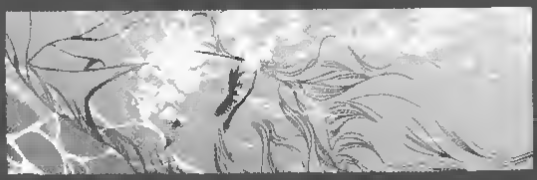
I HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU. I HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD, ABOUT THE THINGS ONLY YOU REMEMBER.
SAY SOMETHING, SHORTY.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM TOO
ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOTHING WHILE THAT DAMNED FATHER AND HIS STUPID SON TRY TO TAKE BUN-NYUH AWAY?
GRANDMA KNOWS ABOUT EVERYTHING! SHE MUST!

BANG
BANG
SLIP
GRAB
SPLASH

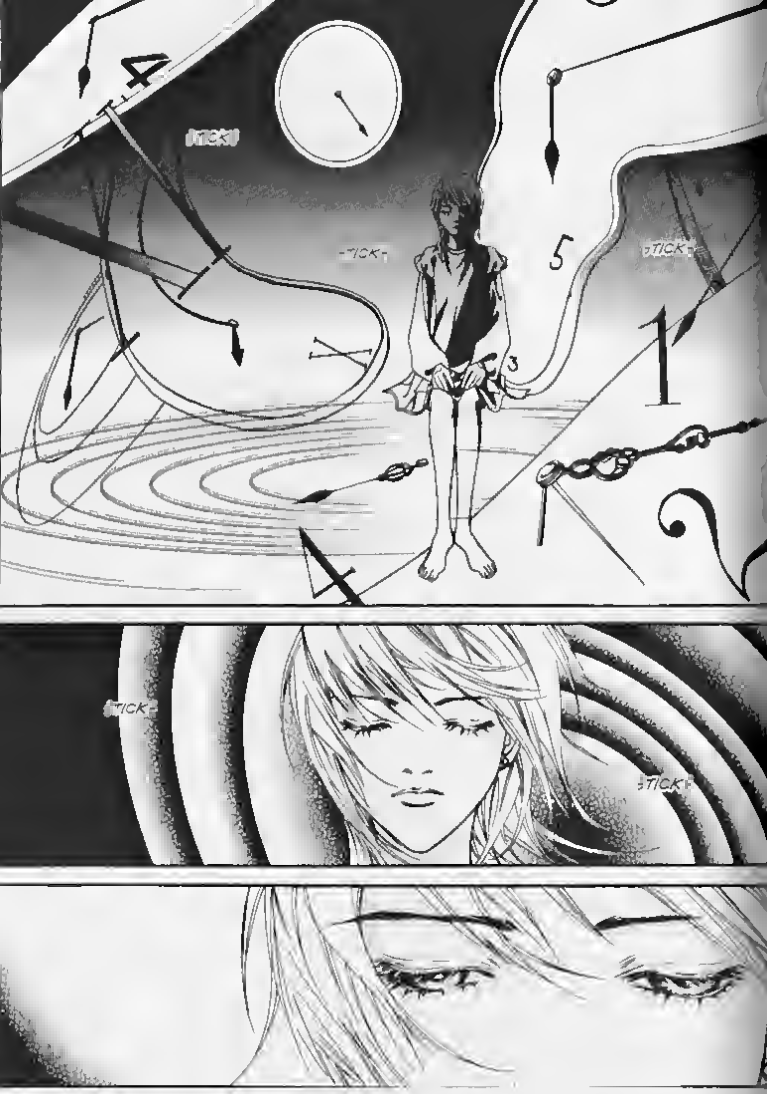
...IT'S...
CRACK
IT IS...

...OVER.
HEH...

KRA-KOOM



HEH-HEH...
HEE-HEE-HEE...


TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

THIS IS THE RIVER OF OBLIVION. IT LEADS TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD.
I'M NOT RIDING YOUR BOAT. I GET SEASICK.
HAH!
Y-YOU ARE...!
YOU MUST CHOOSE TO DRINK THE RIVER WATER IF YOU WANT TO ERASE THE MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE.
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN....
WHY ARE YOU SNAPPING AT ME? DO YOU KNOW ME OR SOMETHING?
WELL, WELL... STOP STANDING AROUND AND GET ON THE BOAT ALREADY.

OF COURSE I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THE KID WHO WAS CRYING AND SAYING YOU'D DRINK ALL THE WATER IN THE RIVER TO FORGET EVERYTHING!
THAT MEANS I DIED ONCE BEFORE?
I KNOW YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR...
YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE BIG BEHIND YOU SINCE THEY SENT YOU BACK.
THEN..
...YOU GOTTA BE THE BASTARD WHO TOOK MY MEMORY AWAY!
GIVE IT BACK!
D-DON'T DO THIS~!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ABANDONED THE MEMORY OF YOUR FRIEND!
THAT MEANS YOU KNOW...

ABOUT HIM?
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT IF I HADN'T GONE INSIDE THE STORAGE ROOM..
EVERYTHING STARTED IN THIS STORAGE ROOM.
I KNOW YOU YOU LET THEM TEAR MY BODY TO SHREDS

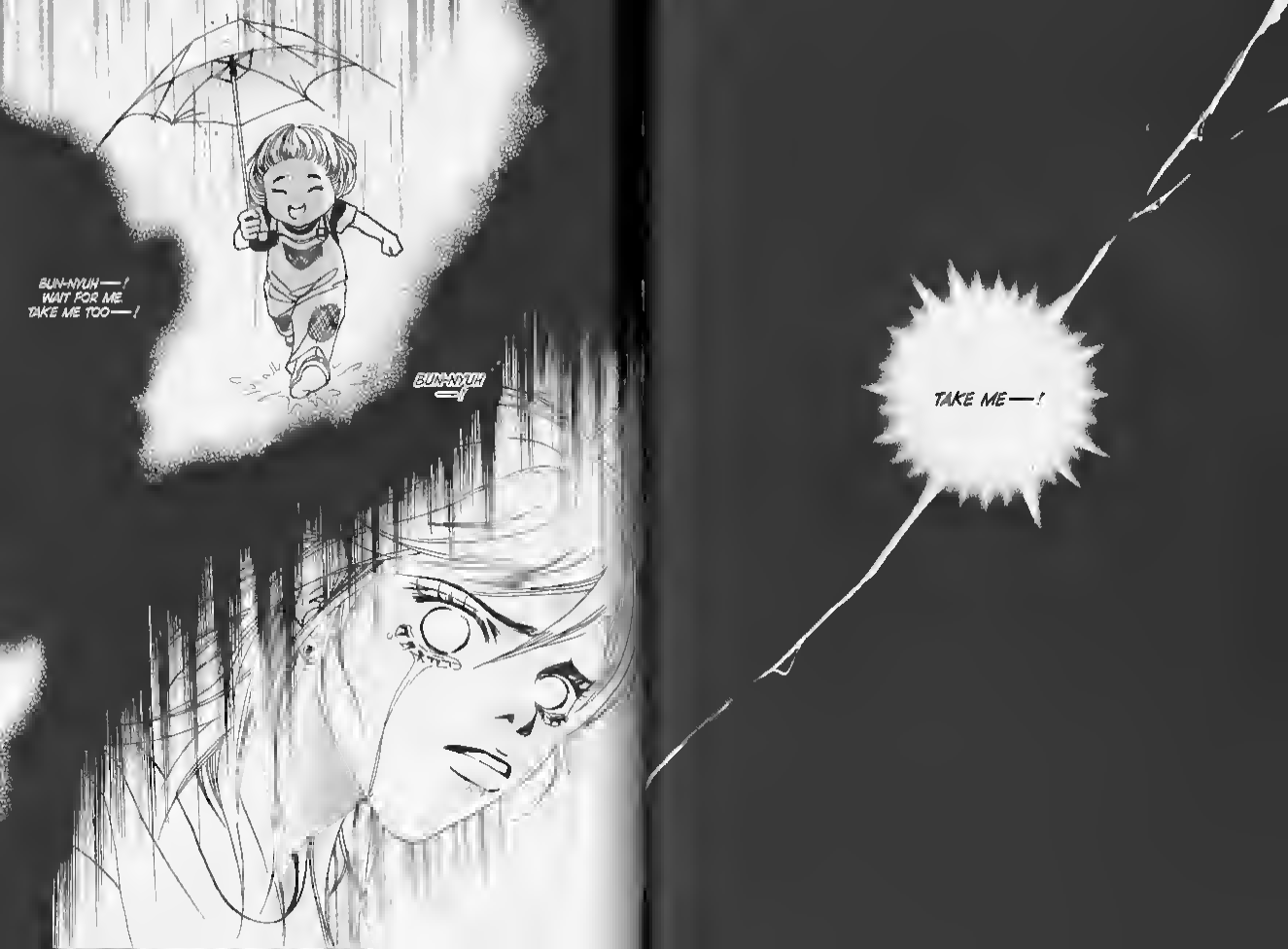
WHY...
WHY DID YOU LET THEM KILL ME? WHY NOT SOMEONE ELSE?!
NOT LONG BEHIND YOU, THE BOY ALSO CAME TO THE RIVER OF OBLIVION
I HAVE SEEN MORE DEAD PEOPLE THAN I CAN COUNT, BUT EVEN I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW CRUEL THE BOY'S FINAL MEMORY WAS

BOY IF YOU DRINK THE RIVER WATER ALL YOUR PAIN WILL DISAPPEAR
THE BOY WAS SHAKING WITH FEAR WHEN HE RECOUNTED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM BUT HE SAID CLEARLY...
I WON'T DRINK THE WATER IF I DO, I WON'T REMEMBER HER WHEN I SEE HER AGAIN
YOU KNOW SHE'S THE PRETTIEST AND STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD SHE DOESN'T TEASE ME EVEN THOUGH I'M STUPID
SHE'S MY BRIDE

THE BOY'S ONLY WISH WAS...TO BE WITH THAT PARTICULAR GIRL ALL THE TIME
C'MON! GET DOWN~! YOUR GRANDMA SAYS WE'LL GET HURT IF WE GO IN THERE
CHICKEN YOU'LL BE SORRY, JI-YOUNG
THAT GIRL WAS EVERYTHING TO THE BOY

AND HE HAD TO ENDURE THE CRUEL MEMORY OF HIS LAST DAY IN ORDER TO HANG ON TO HER

BUN-NYUH
GO AWAY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
BUN-NYUH——!
BUN-NYUH——!


BUN-NYUN——!
WAIT FOR ME
TAKE ME TOO——!
BUN-NYUH——!
TAKE ME——!

THUNK

IT'S OVER BUN-NYUH IS MINE

WHY ARE YOU JUST WATCHING? I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

YOU KNOW VERY WELL SHE WILL NOT GO NOT EVEN IF I FORCE HER
YOU WANT HER, AND SHE BELIEVES THAT AS A MAN SOWS, SO SHALL HE REAP I THINK YOU HAVE MORE RIGHT TO HER THAN I DO
WHAT IS THE PROBLEMP SHE IS A VERY NICE PERSON SHE WILL CROSS THE RIVER OF OBLIVION WITH YOU
AS SHE SOWS.
SO SHALL SHE REAP

WHY DID MY MEMORY COME BACK? YOU SAID THIS RIVER WATER WOULD ERASE EVERYTHING!
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T DRINK THE WATER. YOU DIDN'T NEED THE WATER FROM THE RIVER OF OBLIVION
JUST LIKE NOW...
...THE GUILT AND FEAR THAT YOU COULDN'T BEAR HAS ERASED THAT DAY'S MEMORY ALL ON ITS OWN.
BECAUSE MEMORIES ARE LIKE CHAINS. YOU CAN SOMETIMES PULL THEM BACK OUT OF THE BLUE
BECAUSE HUMANS HAVE TO KEEP ON LIVING, THEY THINK THAT MEMORY IS JUST A FANTASY OR A DREAM, AND THEY FABRICATE FEARS TO MASK THE TRUTH

WELL——! IT'S TIME TO GO
S-SORRY
HESITATE
HESITATE

LET'S GO.

THE END .
THE END OF LIFE..
THE END OF ALL
RELATIONSHIPS

THE END
OF TIME...

...THE RIVER OF
OBLIVION...

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ANTIQUE GIFT SHOP VOLUME 10!